

was put to death in violation of the oath which Con-stantine had sworn to him.* Eusebius says not a word of Licinius's life having been promised him; he only remarks, " Then Constantine, dealing with the accursed of GOD and his associates according to the rules of war, handed them over to fitting punishment.'^ A pretty euphemism for an act of assassination !

So died Licinius, unregretted by any save the zealous advocates of paganism, in the city where he himself had put to death those two hapless ladies, Prisca and Valeria. The best character sketch of him is found in Aurelius Victor, who describes him as grasping and avaricious, rough in manners and of excessively hasty temper, and a sworn foe to culture, which he used to say was a public poison and pest (*virus et pestem publicani*), notably the culture associated with the study and practice of the law. Himself of the humblest origin, he was a good friend to the small farmers' interests; while he was a martinet of the strictest type in all that related to the army. He detested the paraphernalia of a court, in which Constantine delighted, and Aurelius Victor says that he made a clean sweep (*vehemens domitor*) of all eunuchs and chamberlains, whom he described as the moths and shrew-mice of the palace (*tineas soricesque palatii*). Of his religious policy we shall speak elsewhere; of his reign there is little to be said. It has left no impress upon history, and Li-

* *Contra, religionem sacramenti occisus est*, x., 6. | *De Vita Const.*, ii., 18.